

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 30, 2006 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 11–13, 16, 17, and 20 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these changes is found in the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that no new matter has been added.

With this amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

The First 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9 and 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ellis¹ in view of Yun², and further in view of Dalal et al.³, among which claims 1, 8, 11-13, 16, 17 and 20 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of Ellis, Yun, and Dalal, alone or in any combination, one with another, render the claimed invention obvious. Claim 1, as amended includes the following limitations.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,661,890

² U.S. Patent No. 6,084,959

³ U.S. Patent No. 6,115,469

A telephone, comprising:
an electronic telephone tone circuit, directly coupled to tip and ring telephone line, operable to detect electric ring signals on said tip and ring telephone line, said electric ring signals associated with a singular incoming telephone call, wherein a user-controlled ring-level option switch including a crescendo setting is coupled to said electronic telephone tone circuit;
a ring counter circuitry, coupled to said electronic telephone tone circuit, configured to count ring tone signals provided by said electronic telephone tone circuit in response to said electric ring signals; and
a volume control unit, coupled to said ring counter circuitry, configured to generate ringer control signals corresponding to the electric ring signals of the singular incoming telephone call, wherein the ringer control signals are capable of driving an audible ring signal generator without external power supply.

(Amended claim 1) (Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references include the limitation of a user-controlled ring-level option switch including a crescendo setting. Specifically, Yun does not include such a limitation.

Yun discloses a system in which a ring-tone level is initially determined by increasing ring-toned volume level until the phone is answered. This level is “memorized” (stored). For subsequent calls, Yun automatically sets the ring-tone level to the stored level and increases the volume on subsequent rings. Yun does not disclose that the ring-level is controlled by the user on either the initial (level memorizing call) or any subsequent calls.

This becomes clear when considering that the purpose of Yun is distinguishable from the claimed invention. Yun seeks to determine a ring-tone level that is a minimum for response. Yun, then starts its increasing ring-tone levels from that “memorized” level.

In contrast, the invention as claimed allows the user to determine when and if to use the crescendo setting. When activated the crescendo setting will begin at a particular initial level and increase until answered, but for the next call for which the crescendo setting is activated, the ring-tone level will revert to the particular initial level.

For these reasons applicants respectfully submit that combination of Ellis, Yun, and Dalal does not render amended claim 1 obvious. Given that all of the claims include the limitation of a user-controlled ring-level option switch, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are, likewise, not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references, alone or in any combination.

The Second 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ellis in view of Yun and further in view of Hoashi et al.⁴. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hoashi does not remedy the defects of the combination of Ellis, Yun, and Dalal in regard to the claimed limitation of user-controlled ring-level option switch as discussed above.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

⁴ U.S. Patent No. 5,870,684

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.


If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2/20/87


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